

**SECRET**

SCMA-4079

FEB 10 1954

ATTN: Senior Representative, [ ]  
[ ]  
AC/SE

-CBOFUS  
-APPLE Security

Reference: SCMA-7816, ROME-3570, dated 5 August 1952.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES/METHODS/EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

1. Headquarters has initiated action on your request as stated in first reference. [ ] has been asked to check files and sources for further details concerning HNCATHAP's trip to Rome and information given by him to [ ] and possibly other Albanians on CBOFUS/UNCASTING operations.

2. Although there is no question that a serious breach of security was committed by HNCATHAP, who is believed here to have acted on specific orders from UNCASTING, we feel at present that this security leak was not the cause of APPLE's downfall. If we assume that INCERTAIN was captured upon landing (as claimed by the opposition) on August 6, 1953, it would allow only 3 days from the reported date of HNCATHAP's conversation with [ ] (August 3, 1952) for this information to reach the Albanian authorities and be acted upon. It is even unlikely that this could be accomplished since no names or places were reported to have been mentioned by HNCATHAP. The assumption that INCERTAIN was captured by the Albanian security forces immediately after parachuting is based on Radio Tirana's broadcast on the capture of the APPLE group. The eventual trial may throw more light on this subject.

3. Another reason we believe it unlikely that HNCATHAP's breach of security was the cause of APPLE's capture is based on information given by AIRWISE. [ ] recalls that according to AIRWISE, AIRLIGHT showed little awareness of the security precautions needed to safe guard his mission in Albania. On at least one occasion it was the direct intervention of AIRWISE or BPUTLOG which saved the team from capture when AIRLIGHT was attempting to make contact with a friend. AIRWISE explained that AIRLIGHT did not fully realize the vast changes which had taken place in Albania since his departure in 1939. Thus it is possible that the departure of AIRWISE and BPUTLOG left INCERTAIN without any experienced men who could [ ] summarize further on this.

Distribution: 1, RI; 1, SE/EX; 3, Athens, 1, SE/1

[ ], AC/SE

Acting Chief, SE

[ ], SE/ACPP

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